

Washington Alpine Club | Bulletin

May 2014 | Volume 99, Issue 5



Washington Alpine Club

P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

www.wacweb.org

The Bulletin is 100% online

This format allows us to offer photos, color, more timely content, and saves a lot of paper and trees. For those without email, with dial up connections, or with incompatible software we will continue to mail the Bulletin.

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The WAC Olympic Coast Beach Cleanup

April 19 2014 by Mike Mahanay



"The wildest, the most remote and, I think, the most picturesque beach area of our whole coastline lies under the pounding surf along the Pacific Ocean in the State of Washington. It is a place of haunting beauty, of deep solitude." William O. Douglas

The Olympic Coastal Strip is the only wilderness coast left in the lower 48. It looks and feels very much like it did when Captain Cook visited our area 200 years ago. Only surf and storms provide change.

The weather service promised a strong wet cold front moving in for the annual Olympic Coast Cleanup. We came prepared as the rain and wind arrived exactly on time. The creeks were all up, the rocks, cobbles and logs slick.

We all arrived at the Oil City Trailhead, at the

south end of the Olympic Coast Wilderness on the morning and hiked in. Mike, John and Tami, Steve and Cathy, Jeff Knudson, and Elden arrived with full raingear outfits fit for a rainforest in the Pacific Northwest. Betsy was on the South side of the Hoh River.

The trail follows the Hoh River on its final stretch to the Pacific Ocean. It is .9 miles to the Ocean from the Trailhead. The Hoh River starts way up on Mount Olympus, 7,965', about 30 miles to the east. From a sub-alpine environment the river descends into temperate rainforest where precipitation ranges from 12-14 feet a year!

As we neared the Ocean we saw evidence of the massive flooding of the Hoh River, with great piles of logs accumulated along the banks. The mouth of the river turned sharply

WAC Information

Calendar

MAY	
May 9-11	Alpine Climbs
May 16-18	Alpine Climbs
May 10	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
JUNE	
June 14	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
JULY	
July 12	STP Seattle to Portland Bike Ride
July 19	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
AUGUST	
August 1-3	Snoqualmie Pass Trail Runs
August 16	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party
August 23-24	Rhapsody Bike Ride
SEPTEMBER	
September??	Intermediate Climbing Class
September 27	Open House/Stay over/cabin work party

Is Your Contact Info Current?

You can check these things on the Washington Alpine Club website: www.wacweb.org. If your mailing address or email address changes please let us know!

Moving?

Send change of address forms to:
Washington Alpine Club
PO Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111
Or email Dave Mitchell at:
dtmitch@mindspring.com

New Email Address?

To update your email address log on to
www.wacweb.org
If you don't have an account, you can use the shared name and password:
User name: climbing / Password: climbon

Join the WACList on Yahoo

If you want to get mail on the WAC email list, join the yahoo group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waclist/>

Post message: waclist@yahoogroups.com **Subscribe:** waclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Important: You must be a current member! We have to approve you before you can join, so please put your name in the comment section.

Washington Alpine Club

Founded 1916 Incorporated 1923
P.O. Box 352, Seattle, WA 98111
www.wacweb.org

Member Of

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs,
Washington Association, Washington
Environmental Council, Washington Wilderness
Coalition, and MidFORC Coalition

The primary purpose of this club is to encourage the healthful enjoyment of the great outdoors, to preserve its natural beauty and to promote good fellowship among all lovers of nature.

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President's Corner

May 2014 by Mike Mahanay

May is here and we are enjoying long days of sunlight, and warmer temperatures although certainly not drier weather. We have set some remarkable precipitation records this year. (even after the very dry January) There was over 10 feet of snow at the Cabin so who knows when it will melt this year- as of today there is still 4 feet on the ground. Many of the trails won't be snow free until late July! We have had good spring skiing at all the ski areas, and the volcanoes beckon for turns throughout the summer. Mount St. Helens, Camp Muir, Mount Baker, and Mount Adams are all fantastic trips on spring corn.

Have you ever wondered how many members are in the WAC? This year we have 510 members! The Club is very successful with all the activities and classes that we do. Thank you for your ongoing support of your time and dues each year. We really appreciate you! The WAC plays a vital role each in the community with its classes and fellowship activities.

Our 2014 Climbing Class will be on Snoqualmie Pass the next two weekends and will base out of Guye Cabin for climbs of The Tooth, Lundin, and other alpine summits. We have a very strong group of students this year, and we have an excellent group of instructors! Our class is unique in that we limit the class to 32 students to ensure the optimum student to teacher ratio.

For the thirteenth year in a row the WAC participated in the Olympic Wilderness Beach Cleanup. There were 9 participants this year on a blustery and rainy day. Working as a team and emphasizing fun they easily made the Hoh River beaches look like humans had never set foot on them before. We expected to see Captain Cook sail by looking for the Northwest Passage like he did some 500 years ago! It is a fantastic feeling to take an opportunity to

"give something back" and enjoy the amazing beauty and wilderness at the Pacific Ocean in the Pacific Northwest. Everyone came back with good stories and new experiences! Thanks to everyone who helped out.

How do you get in touch with other WAC people? It's easy and there are several ways. Our excellent Washington Alpine Club web page is one. Everything you want to know about the WAC is there! You can find out what is happening in the club, find members email addresses and phone numbers, check trip reports, and see upcoming events. We also have the WAC's Facebook page. It takes a bit of work but networking within the WAC is a great way to meet people and have fun. Get to know the WAC community.

Our Club has one of the most active, collaborative, dedicated and progressive Boards ever. Everyone is working hard for the best interest of the Club. We continue to work to reduce expenses, keep the Club overhead at a minimum, and make things easier for those that come after us. We continue to work on updating the Club Constitution, and evolving the Club from a 501C7 to a 501C3 status. If you can help or have comments please contact us. We are also working on updating our website with new technologies to make it easier to manage our Club and for members to network. Many other people work very hard and put in hours to keep the WAC moving forward. Did you know that there are well over 100 people that help with our classes each year? Almost that many people help out at Guye Cabin during the work parties each summer.

New this year we'll have the Cabin open one weekend a month in conjunction with the work parties. The first one will be on May 10. This is your chance to spend the day, or



overnight and enjoy the beauty of summer. You can also choose to participate in the work party. We'll continue to upgrade the bathrooms, paint, electrical, and other inside tasks. The second work party will be June 14. There will be still snow on the ground so we'll be limited with what we can do outside. On the right day we'll do some touchup painting outside of the Cabin, and work on landscaping. There is also trail work to do at the bridge, north of the bridge, and beyond. And yes, firewood to haul, cut, split and stack for next winter. I'm sure we will come up with some other fun stuff to do. Later we'll fire up the grill and have a potluck cookout of burgers and stuff. Come on out and visit the Cabin, and bring some food and drink to share. Build some memories at Guye Cabin! We will have these open houses and work parties each month into October. Again, this is a great opportunity to visit the Cabin in the summer and/or stay overnight. If you are up to do a hike or climb stop in afterwards.

What is it that makes the WAC so special? I think about that often. Certainly a lot has to do with our long outdoor history, our steadfast commitment and laser focus on conservation and education, and our wonderful Guye Cabin. Mostly it is simply the amazing spirited people in the WAC. You, our members, your family and friends, are what make our Club truly extraordinary, and fun! Thank you all!



The WAC Olympic Coast Beach Cleanup Jefferson Cove continue from page 1



Northward as it entered the Pacific Ocean. Interestingly, the beach was swept clean this year. Of course there were still massive piles of logs and driftwood, but much less than the last ten years.

John and Tami set up camp at a very well protected location with numerous tent sites. It offered wonderful views of the Hoh River, the surf, the rocks offshore, and the islands. They got the fire going (even in the rain) and offered up hot food and drink.

Although we had a low tide morning, we could not make the crux at Diamond Rock to Jefferson Cove, a mile to the North. It was a high low tide, due to the storm and wind. The rocks were just too slick and wet. Knowing the tides is essential to travel on the Olympic Coast.

Hob Beach is an amazing beautiful beach about a half mile long. We started working north on the beach, gathering the flotsam and jetsam into large trash bags. It was amazing how much faster we worked and how much more we accomplished as a larger group.

In the early years we made a cache site was

above the high tide line near the overland ladder to Hoh Head. NOAA and the Park Service would come later with a zodiac and remove the cache to the Port Angeles landfill. With the budget cuts those days are over. Now we carry everything out to the Trailhead. This is very hard work and often requires multiple trips.

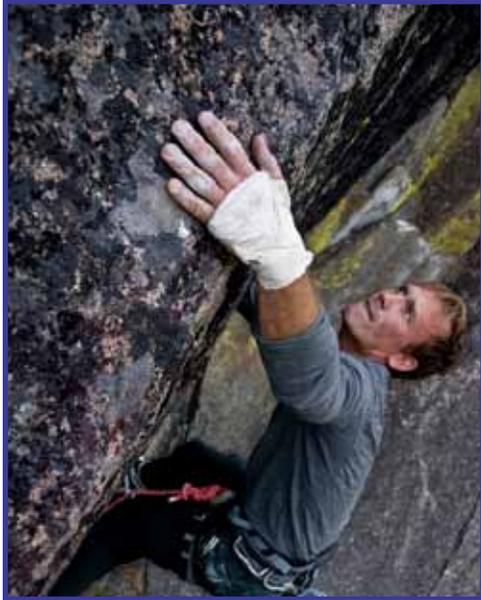
It has been 3 years since the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, 2011 we expected some tsunami debris but didn't find anything that could be associated with

the tsunami. We did find a TV that might be tsunami rubbish but we could not verify it. People have found real treasures such as glass fishing floats that arrive via the Kuroshio current from Japan. These glass floats have fascinating markings, delicate colors and come in a myriad of designs. They are the most sought after of all beach treasures, but we have never been lucky enough to find any. Flotsam riding high in the water and aided by wind takes the Ocean currents a year or more to cross from Asia to North America!

We were entertained all day by the antics of our good friends. We had such a good time! The lighthouse far offshore on Destruction Island was visible all day, indicating the weather was not as bad as Cliff Mass predicted but it was still a soaker. Eventually we hiked out, hand carrying all the rubbish. Despite the wet stormy weather we had a fun strong supportive team and a happy memorable time! Each storm brings more rubbish, so we will have to come back next year and do it yet again. (number 14)



Washington Climbers Coalition Spring 2014



Vantage: The new toilet opened in February. Join us for trail work and a barbecue May 10, 2014.

Leavenworth: Bouldering impact control and toilets are coming to Forestland Boulders.

Index: The falcons nested on "The Diamond" this year. The falcon closure was revised April 2014.

Elsewhere: The WCC is active in stewardship projects and access efforts around the State. Read on for information about issues affecting access and stewardship in Washington.

Vantage Toilet: thank you for your support!

Climbers have sought a toilet in Frenchman Coulee for 25 years. The new toilet was brought to you by climbers' donations and grants. The fund raising effort was a joint project of the Washington Climbers Coalition, the Access Fund, the American Alpine Club, and The Mountaineers. The toilet will be serviced by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Please help us take care of the toilet and report any vandalism to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (509) 765-6641 or to the Washington Climbers Coalition at info@washingtonclimbers.org.

Join us for a spring picnic at Vantage May 10. <http://www.washingtonclimbers.org/Current/VantageCelebration.html>

The Mountain to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area



It's time to make it official

After more than 20 years of conservation, it is now time to designate the Mountain to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area. To find out how you can help go here - <http://mtsgreenway.org/heritage>



OR has invited WAC members (along with members of other clubs) to have first dibs on items in their next sale.

The "First Dibs" portion of the sale will be Wednesday, May 14 from 5-8 p.m.

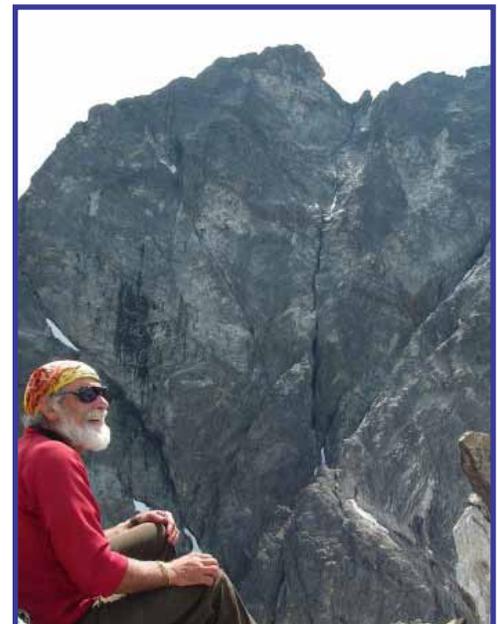
Here is some info on our next First Dibs sale for the WAC and other non-profits. May 14, 5-8PM

First Dibs in our Loading Dock on the Sale that starts the next day, May 15th and runs through May 18th

<http://www.outdoorresearch.com/en/contact-us/retail-store>

Join the conversation at:

www.facebook.com/orretailstore



Events/Guye Cabin

Historic Guye Cabin was first built in 1932, then added on several times over the years. It is the oldest of the remaining Mountain Cabins, built during the heyday of Outdoor Clubs. With 85 bunks, in women's, men's, and coed dormitories, Guye Cabin can accommodate a large group. Our warm and cozy Fireplace Room is perfect for reading, conversation, or playing games. Guye Cabin has an outstanding library of outdoor literature and guides. It also has a wonderful outside space with fire pit, BBQ area and Snoqualmie River access.



Guye Cabin Summer Update

Guye Cabin is the perfect year-round hideaway in the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest at 3,200 on Snoqualmie Pass, with views of Guye Peak, Kendall Peak, Denny Mountain, and Snoqualmie Peak.

This year we will have the Cabin open one weekend a month. If you have never been up in the summer this is a perfect time to experience Snoqualmie Pass in the Cascades. There are many hikes, climbs, and bike rides just out the door. Come up for the day, overnight, just stop in to visit or hang out, or help with a work party.

Here are the dates:

May 10/11

June 14 /15

July 19/20

September 27/28

October 18/19

Additionally Guye Cabin in the spring/summer/fall is perfect for vacations, classes, birthday parties, anniversaries, retreats, family reunions, and other large groups. This year there are two running camps already scheduled in the summer. If you would like to schedule your family or group event just contact Mike or your favorite Board Member to find dates. (Sorry, not available during the winter weekends)

WAC CABIN WORK PARTIES 2014

The Cabin is a great place to base for hikes, bike rides, and climbs in the Snoqualmie Peaks! Consider combining a trip outside with a day at a work party.

We'll again have a potluck cookout for lunch, bring stuff for burger or hotdogs and sides to share! We'll look for a couple of people to organize this each time. RSVP and we'll send an email when we have the day's theme. Do you see something you can help out with? We need some skilled folks to lead projects. We also need folks who can just help out, and learn some new skills. Typically 9-4 although you can come for a few hours, just for lunch, or to spend the night!

Schedule for this year! Mark your calendars!
All Saturdays!

Here are the dates:

May 10

June 14

July 19

September 27

October 18

Here is the list of stuff we are working on!

Inside

Clean-up

Bathroom ceiling

Refinish Dining Room door

Redo shower room

Outside in the Yard

Back Porch

Paint touchups

Firewood detail

Trail work (bridge, river area, ski trails)

Landscaping

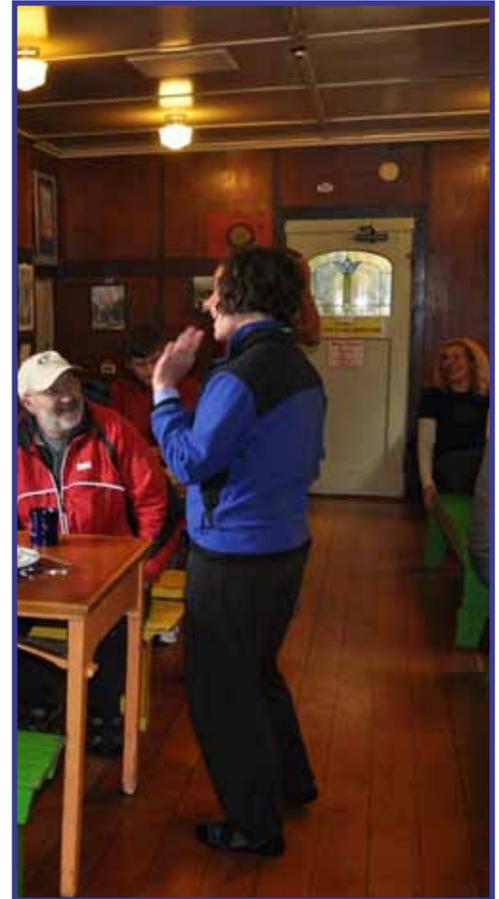
Benches

Weed eater

Avalanche brush clearing

Needed Donations (must be nice)

Wood Chairs (sturdy)



The Washington Alpine Club is on Facebook!

Facebook is yet another way to keep up with the Washington Alpine Club. Once you've joined Facebook, go to the WAC page and join the group. And invite your friends to join the group. You can connect with other WAC members, get information on upcoming events and post messages for other members.





Washington Alpine Club
P.O. Box 352
Seattle, WA 98111

Address Correction Requested
Do Not Forward

FIRST CLASS

TO: